

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 9/9/04, Applicant is filing this amendment. Please amend claims 1, 10, 16, 24 and 30. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45 are still pending.

In the Office Action mailed 9/9/04, the Examiner has rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hagersten et al. (U.S. Patent 5,987,549; "Hagersten"). Applicant submits that Hagersten fails to disclose the elements of the independent claims, as amended.

The Examiner has maintained that Hagersten discloses an agent that is given default grant. The Examiner has noted the text at column 7, lines 55-67 of Hagersten, as teaching the aspects of a default grant. Applicant still submits that Hagersten discloses a round-robin arbitration method to ensure that one circuit board will be a default winner. This winner may drive the address bus and its request line in the same cycle. All other boards can drive the address bus, only after winning arbitration. In any address arbitration cycle, if there are requests from boards other than the default winner, a new default winner is chosen. Thus, in Hagersten, a default winner changes depending on which board wins the arbitration.

The amended claims recite an agent that is selected as a predetermined default agent and this agent alone is given default grant. Although the default agent may participate in the arbitration scheme to seek arbitration, the default agent maintains its status to be given default grant of the bus independent of arbitrations granted by the arbitration priority to the plurality of agents. Thus, the ability to obtain default grant of the bus is maintained with the default agent and not transferred to other agents which obtain arbitration of the bus through the arbitration priority. This aspect of the claimed embodiments of the invention is not disclosed in Hagersten.

Applicant has amended the independent claims to better recite that the default agent maintains its status to be given default grant of the bus independent of arbitrations granted by the arbitration priority to the plurality of agents. Accordingly, Applicant

respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection and allow pending claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45, as amended.

If there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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